THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of the Belgian team which visited India during February, 1988 is shown in the attached statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Matters of mutual trade interest were discussed and no decisions as such were arrived at.

Statement

1. Mr. W. Monfils
2. Mr. E. Vandenhaute
3. Mr. R. De Winter
4. Mr. W. Vandenberghe
5. Mr. M. Bogaerts
6. Mr. L. Jacobs
7. Mr. Vyverman
8. Mr. Paul Lejour
9. Mr. Leon DE Schutter
10. Mr. Michel Van Der Horst
11. Mr. Francis Lietaert
12. Mr. L. Pauwels
13. Mr. J. Daems
14. Mr. J. Van Remortel
15. Mr. G. Delhaye
16. Mr. H. Bosteels
17. Mr. S. Lamisse
18. Mr. E. Conard
19. Mr. A Poppe
20. Mr. H. Facon
21. Mr. J. C. Vandevoorde
22. Mr. Y. Van Pachterbeke
23. Mr. V. Bhargava
24. Mr. R. Beckers
25. Mr. P. Rixhon
26. Mr. F. Dethior
27. Mrs. A. M. Rikkers
28. Mr. J. Guilmin
29. Mr. J. M. Dirix
30. Mr. G. Collette
31. Mr. A. Rambout
32. Mr. L. Comhaire
33. Mr. W. Verbrugge
34. Mr. P. Ratinckx
35. Mr. P. Bultynck
36. Mr. J. De Kriek
37. Mr. D. Fierens
38. Mr. R. Van Wemmel
39. Mr. J. Schouwers
40. Mr. P. Duque
41. Mr. J. Praet

Tea exports

1323. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea production in the country has reached an all time high this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tea export has not correspondingly picked up; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to boost up tea export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Production of tea during the year 1987 is an all time high record of 673 million kgs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Some of the important steps taken by Govt. to boost up exports of tea are as follows:—

1. Tea Board have been undertaking generic and uninational promotional campaign in different countries for promotion of export of tea.

2. Excise duty rebate of 50 paise on all teas exported.

3. Full excise duty rebate on teas going into pockets as well as the duty on packets.

4. Provision of 10 per cent of FOB realisation for advertising and promotion by individual companies abroad.

5. Sanction of schemes under the Brand Promotion Fund and under Warehousing Subsidy Scheme.

6. A Committee to formulate long-term strategy and plan for tea has been constituted.

7. A national Committee on Tea Research has been constituted.

8. A Rs. 10 crores Corpus of Tea Research has been initiated.

9. Leading Tea exporters have been asked to draw up their export plan as a part of their corporate plan for the next 5 years.

राज्यपालों के रिक्त पद

1324. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :**
श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी :
श्री रशीद मसूद :
श्री अजीत सिंह :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि किन-किन राज्यों में राज्यपाल के पद रिक्त पड़े हैं या जहां राज्यपाल के रूप में कार्य कर रहे व्यक्तियों का कार्यकाल समाप्त हो चुका है और कब से ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : ऐसा कोई राज्य नहीं है जहां राज्यपाल का पद रिक्त है । ऐसा कोई राज्यपाल नहीं है जिसका कार्यकाल समाप्त हो चुका है ।

LIC funds for Municipal Corporation of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

1325. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Corporation of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh has approached the Life Insurance Corporation of India for funds for water supply schemes;

(b) whether the Corporation has released funds for the purpose; and

(c) if so, what is the amount released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 169 lakhs.

Import of raw silk from China

1326. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Silk Board has approached the China National Silk Export-Import Corporation for 100 tonnes of raw silk for supply to the domestic weavers and industry;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the sudden shortage of silk for indigenous industry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Central Sericulture Project with the proposed outlay of about Rs 275 crores has been formulated and sent to the World Bank for assistance; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and whether the World Bank assistance is forthcoming?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Certain leading silk producing states have reported a marginal decrease in silk production due to drought conditions, Further, there have reportedly been some policy changes in China due to which their exportable quantity of raw silk has come down. On the other hand, the demand for silk, both for indigenous consumption and for exports is on the increase in the country. All these factors have led to a rise in prices of silk. In order to provide immediate relief to the silk weaving industry, Government has allowed the Central Silk